

# Monthly Narrative Report



The Centre for Land, Economy & Rights of Women

**Project Title:** Addressing Women's Livelihoods & their Rights through Gender Equality

**Reporting Period:** September 2008

**Recipient Organisation:** The Centre for Land, Economy & Rights of Women - CLEAR



Organizational Details

Name of Organization	CLEAR
Type of Organization	TRUST
Name of Project	ADDRESSING WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS AND THEIR LAND RIGHTS THROUGH GENDER EQUALITY.
Country where project is based	KENYA
Geographical coverage of project	EAST AFRICA
Reporting period	SEPTEMBER 2008
Author of Report and Contact Details (Including email, phone, etc)	Nancy Amayo <a href="mailto:nancy@clearwomen.org">nancy@clearwomen.org</a> 254-020-4450461

Funding Status

Total Project Budget	€ 153,846
Total spent this month	€ 8,430
Funds remaining	€ 98,594.00

## **Introduction**

The Centre for Land, Economy and Rights of Women (CLEAR) is a Regional Trust Organisation addressing social and economic justice, working with poor and vulnerable women and in solidarity with similar initiatives working towards improving women's livelihoods through secure and equitable access to and the utilization of land and other natural resources. Operationally, CLEAR's work is anchored on influencing policy, research, advocacy and networking, and capacity building on women's land rights. In collaboration with NEPAD, CLEAR is focusing as well on addressing women's livelihoods and their land rights through gender equality for a period of 3 years in the whole region.

This report describes the operations and implementation progress in the month of September 2008 of the program. It details the ongoing activities with CBO's already identified by CLEAR. In the reporting period, program activities focused capacity building of CBO's and the implementation of work plans among others.

## **Major Accomplishments**

This section expounds the key activities undertaken during the period under review, and the associated accomplishments/progress realized from each of the components.

### **Component 1: Policy**

In the period under review, CLEAR did not take up policy issues.

An attempt was made to follow up progress on the Land Policy which is set to be discussed in parliament but the finalized draft copy as not yet made available to civil society.

### **Component 2: Advocacy and Networking**

During the period, CLEAR was involved with a local partner – Actionaid Kenya, in developing a blue print training manual for Women's right to land and property issues that is adjustable to every target group and/or community in Kenya which will be rolled out later in the year to train women in the coastal region of Kenya.

The signing of the national Reconciliation agreement following the election crisis in December 2007, in which a new constitution is also to be agreed upon, provides the most appropriate moment to mount an advocacy and communication campaign on women's rights to own property and land. An effective advocacy for policies and principles needs to be mounted to secure wider support within and outside the country. The process of developing a women's right to land campaign entails identifying issues, defining results to be attained, setting clear and realistic objectives, selecting approaches and tolls to be adopted, specific actions to be undertaken and ways of assessing achievements and progress. This is the

framework that CLEAR will adopt to direct and guide the women's right to land and property advocacy with the local partner.

In guiding the women's right to land and property advocacy, CLEAR will design a manual that:

Advocates for policy, legislative and institutional reforms with an inbuilt enforcement mechanism.

Enlist support of influential community leaders and institutions.

Build solidarity movement and strategic partnership with like minded institutions in promoting women's land rights and property issues.

Enlist support of the Kenyan public to prop up women's struggles for secure land and property rights.

Build and support a strong constituency of women and youth that will vocalize women's land rights struggle.

### **Component 3: Capacity Building**

CLEAR through the NEPAD support aims at providing linkages between natural resource management, land and property rights, economic growth, inequality, poverty, peace, security and sustainability and the need to formulate and implement policies, which are addressing livelihoods through gender equality. To this end, CLEAR had identified 2 CBOs in western and eastern provinces in Kenya respectively and began to build their capacity to bring about improvements in their livelihoods and help play an active role in lesson learning and promoting exchange of experience among other women in the regions selected. In the period under review, CLEAR brought on board its program in Uganda which focuses on promoting socio-economic justice by working to improve women's livelihoods through secure and equitable access to and control over productive resources with women in Uganda. The main thrusts under this component in the period were as follows:

#### CLEAR Uganda

In Uganda, CLEAR seeks to catalyze action by women and communities around their own priorities to promote food security and eradicate poverty. Women in Uganda, as in the rest of Africa, continue to be the linchpin for small-holder agriculture and subsistence production and processing. Women in Uganda account for over 90% of the agricultural labor force and are almost wholly responsible for household food production and processing. Despite this high labor in-put into agriculture, women own only 7% of all productive land and continue to have limited access to and control over productive resources. These constraints have resulted in gender specific dimensions of poverty acknowledged in the main poverty-focused policy frameworks<sup>1</sup>.

CLEAR Uganda will be targeting rural women farmers and stimulating genuine bottom-up actions which are based on the know-how, initiative and capacities of the rural poor, in general, and women subsistence farmers, in particular. CLEAR Uganda will work in Bungokho-Mutoto Sub-County starting with 10-20 subsistence farmers (mostly women) from the neighboring villages of Makokha, Katwaka, Bukisukye, Bunapongo (Lower) and Bunapongo (Upper). Lessons from this phase will be used to design a broader program which can be scaled up and replicated in other villages within the sub-county and other districts in Eastern Uganda.

#### Bar Kobala Womens Group

During the period, the members of Bar Kobala women group focused on planning and laying out the initial activities that the group will be involved in. Based on the priority areas identified during their workshop on economic empowerment and business entrepreneurship, the group has started its activities as follows:

Establishing a grain/seed shop – The group pooled together to purchase and stock 90 bags of maize in this period. Maize is a staple food in the area but during the dry season, it is rarely available thus its price increases significantly. The women were able to obtain this maize at a fair price since it is currently easily available. The maize was stored in a hired store and is expected to act as buffer stocks for the women as well as a source of income if sold at higher prices during the dry season expected very soon.

Reclaim Land and enhance food production - The group has decided to grow both sunflower and chillies to boost their incomes. Sunflower will provide much needed oil which can be sold as well as boost the local demand by women for the product. Nyanza Farmers Ltd was able to provide seed for the pepper grown by the group. In the period, each group member identified and cleared their own piece of land as a requirement before receiving the pepper seed. The group plans for about five acres of land to be under chillies. By next month, planting of the seed should commence. Two acres of land has also been prepared and tilled for growing sunflower.

Lastly the group embarked on plans to prepare for an exchange visit with Ugandan counterparts during world food day scheduled for the month of October. A key component of this visit will be to share ideas on beneficial food crops and how these can be appropriately grown to ensure sustainable food supplies for women and their families.

The activities of Bar Kobala were based on CLEAR's programme for reclaiming women's land rights, empowerment promotion, creating wealth and ending hunger at the household level.

#### Kyaani Womens Group

During the period, the main activity with this CBO focused also on reorganizing their sisal basket weaving activities in order to achieve maximum profits from the business.

First, the women sought to solidify linkages with their source/input markets. From what they learnt from the training workshop, they were able to negotiate for better prices for bulk purchases and thus secured a large volume of sisal, dye and leather for making their products. The women are confident that since this is properly planned for, it can last them up to 3 months without having to make many expensive errands to buy more whenever they receive orders for baskets. Currently they are trying to negotiate with suppliers to develop some kind of supplier contracts where they receive materials on credit and pay for the same after an agreed period.

At the market end, the group has begun sourcing for alternative buyers for their product. They have for a long time been selling to middlemen who then get better prices for the same product when they sell at higher value markets. The women therefore feel that if they were able to reach the end markets themselves, they would obtain higher prices and thus increase their incomes faster. The group leaders are thus working closely with some established individual women outside the group to discover the possibility of accessing markets directly.

CLEARs focus as it works with this group in the next few months will be to ensure their business venture is grounded on proper principles as the women adopt the learnings from the previous training.

**Table 1: Targets and Results Summary Table**

<b>Results/ key deliverables</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Ugandan CBO identified and brought on board to focus on food security issues affecting women.	1	1	-
Kenyan CBOs begin implementing their action plans	2	2	-
Sharing policy issues at Liberian forum	1	0	The event was postponed until October 2008
Linkages made with civil society on advocacy and networking issues affecting women land rights.	1	1	-

## Challenges

None .

## Next Steps

The major activities for the following month are:

Activity	Month	
	October 08	Person Responsible
Baseline survey will be conducted for Bar Kobala CBO to track progress made from their activities.	X	ED, Program coordinator
World food day to be marked by women in Uganda and exchange visit by Kenyan CBO to witness Ugandan counterpart activities during the event. Action plans of current CBOs implemented	X	As above
Sharing policy issues at Liberian forum	X	Executive Director